

NSC BRIEFING

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24 OCTOBER 1956

SUEZ BACKGROUND: ANNEX A--EGYPTIAN MILITARY DISPOSITIONS

1. Ground Forces: Estimated strength of the Egyptian Army (including the National Guard) is 108,500. This force is deployed in three principal areas, as follows:

Sinai Peninsula & Israeli Front -- 35,900

Canal Zone -- 15,000

Nile Delta Area -- 56,100

A. G-2 Estimates that 1,500 other Egyptian troops are in scattered garrisons up the Nile and in Western Desert oases.

B. The substantial withdrawals from Sinai following the outbreak of the Suez crisis, include 1 infantry and most of 1 armored division.

C. A selective inventory of Egyptian armament shows the following:

TANKS			MISC ARMORED VEHICLES	ARTILLERY FIELD			ARTILLERY A/T	
L.	M.	H.	650	SP	75mm- 100mm-	100mm- 155mm	SP	57mm- 75mm
40	259	82		11	124	50	151	249
ARTILLERY A/A			ARTILLERY MISC					
20mm- 40mm	75mm- 130mm	Rocket-launchers, recoilless				Mortars 81mm-120mm		
470	36	1,200				238		

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NSA review completed

Army review(s) completed.

2. Naval Forces: Principal concentrations are in three areas:ALEXANDRIA:

4 destroyers
 4 patrol escorts
 6 fleet minesweepers
 7 coastal minesweepers
 3 motor torpedo boats

PORT SAID:

2 patrol escorts
 7 motor torpedo
 boats

RED SEA:

1 patrol escort
 6 motor torpedo
 boats

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3. Air Forces:

A. Recent EAF redeployment will strengthen defense of the Canal Zone at the expense of the air defense of the Cairo area.

B. Present estimated deployment of the EAF, other than 19 Il-28s at Luxor, is in two main areas:

CANAL ZONE AREA

Abu Suweir--15 MIG-15 jet fighters

 Fayid --20 Meteor jet fighters
 Kabrit --15 MIG-15 jet fighters
 Kasfareet --17 Vampire jet fighters

CAIRO AREA:

Almaza--9 piston fighters
 3 piston recon.

 C/West--17 Vampire jet
 fighters
 27 jet l.bombers
 6 piston m.bombers
 Inchas--15 MIG-15 jet
 fighters

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